

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-37 are cancelled. Claims 38-52 are new. As a result, Claims 38-52 remain pending the application.

### **Rejection of Claims 1-37 under 35 USC §102**

The previous claims were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application number 5,712,932 (Alexander).

New claim 38 is directed to an add/drop apparatus. The apparatus includes a channel selector configured to transmit a first channel to an add/drop node and a second channel to an output node when in a first channel mode and to transmit the second channel to the add/drop node and the first channel to the output node when in a second channel mode. The apparatus also includes a switch configured to receive a plurality of optical channels and to direct the optical channels such that the optical channels are received by the channel selector or such that the optical channels bypass the channel selector and are received at the output node. Because Alexander does not teach each element of the new claims, the anticipation rejection under 35 USC §102 does not apply to these claims.

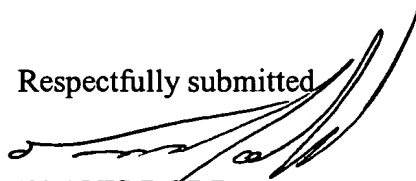
## CONCLUSION

In light of the Amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants believe they are entitled to a letters patent. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any questions.

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Respectfully submitted



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